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Security Council

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 5111th meeting of the Security Council, held on 13 January 2005, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council welcomes the Palestinian Presidential election held on 9 January 2005. It commends the credible and fair character of the vote and congratulates the Palestinian people who demonstrated their commitment to democracy by participating in the election under challenging conditions. The Council pays tribute to the Central Elections Commission which played a key role in ensuring the successful conclusion of the election, and expresses its appreciation for the contribution of international observers and for the support of the United Nations.

"The Security Council congratulates the newly elected President of the Palestinian Authority on his election.

"The Security Council looks forward to the convening of the Palestinian legislative elections in the near future, and affirms the Council's continuing support for the Palestinian people in their democratic process.

"The Security Council supports the Palestinian Authority and its efforts to pursue the process of strengthening institutions.

"The Security Council underlines the importance of enhanced and expeditious international assistance to the Palestinian people and the Palestinian Authority.

"The Security Council stresses the need for the full implementation of the Quartet Roadmap, as endorsed by the Security Council in resolution 1515 (2003), for the creation of an independent, viable, democratic and sovereign State of Palestine living side by side with Israel in peace and security.

"The Security Council calls upon Israelis and Palestinians to relaunch a genuine political process and advance towards a just and lasting peace in the region."

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